TRANSCRIPT—AGNES AND DARLENE LAUGHTER

Interviewee: Dorothy Agnes Marlow Laughter (1927-2021) with Darlene Laughter

Interviewer: Tealey Ellis and Judith Robertson

Interview Date: January 27, 2020

Location: Fairview, NC

Length: 1 digital recording; 00:42:53

Transcriber: Rev.com

Transcription Date: November 2, 2022

TE: My name is Tealey Ellis, and I am a volunteer with the Fairview Library Oral History Project. And today, I am interviewing Agnes Laughter and her daughter, Darlene Laughter, at their home in Fairview, North Carolina.

Thank you both for sharing this time with us today and to share some information about your growing up in Fairview, North Carolina.

JR: This is Judith Robertson recording the oral history of Agnes Laughter and her daughter Darlene Laughter, at their home on Garren Creek Road in Fairview, North Carolina, at 2:25 PM on January 27th, 2020, for the Fairview Oral History Project for the North Carolina Room at Pack Library in the Buncombe County Library System. The conditions of use form for sound and video recordings has been signed by the interviewees.

TE: Mrs. Laughter, I noticed here that you said you were born in 1927. Were you born in Fairview?

AL: No, I don't know where I was born. Seem like I was born... Go ahead and put Fairview because I can't...

TE: Okay. That's fine. That's fine. And what about your parents, do you remember where they were born? Your parents?

AL: They was born, I reckon, in Fairview too.

TE: Okay.

DL: No.

TE: No?

AL: Help.

DL: Mom was born in Lower Flat Creek, which is in the Broad River Township.

TE: Okay.

DL: On number nine, at her grandmother's house.

TE: Okay.

DL: Annie Wright, which was her mother's mother.

TE: Okay.

DL: Her mother was born in Flat Creek. Her father was born in Fairview.

TE: Okay. Do either of you know, where you were born, Ms. Laughter, did a doctor come to the house? Was there a midwife? What the situation was? Do either of you know that?

AL: I think I went to the hospital, didn't I? To have my baby.

DL: No, she's talking about when you were born.

AL: Oh.

TE: You were born at home?

DL: Yes.

AL: Yes.

TE: Okay. Do you have any idea if a doctor came to the house or if there was a midwife?

AL: They had a midwife then.

TE: Okay. That's very different than today, isn't it? Yeah, very different from today. And where were you born?

DL: Mission Hospital.

TE: In Mission Hospital. Okay. Oh, super. What kind of work did your parents do?

AL: My mother stayed at home and raised her children, she had so many.

TE: And she worked hard, didn't she?

JR: How many did she have?

TE: Do you know how many children she had?

AL: About six or seven, might've been more.

TE: What about your dad?

AL: What'd you put down?

DL: 13.

AL: I ain't had no 13 children.

DL: Your mother, not you. We're talking about your mother, how many brothers and sisters that you had.

AL: Oh.

TE: You had a lot of family, and I'm sure it was a lot of fun too, that you had. What kind of work did your dad do?

AL: He was a carpenter.

TE: So --

AL: Then he went to Beacon and worked over there for years.

TE: Okay. And Beacon is...

AL: By Swannanoa.

TE: Oh, okay.

AL: Beacon [inaudible 00:04:02], factory town.

DL: The one, it burned down a number of years ago, where they made blankets.

TE: Okay. Very good. How did you get to Garren Creek? When did you move here?

AL: I don't know.

DL: Are you talking about this house or the house...

TE: Go ahead.

AL: It's the house over yonder's where we lived.

DL: She was raised on what is now Marlowe Road.

AL: Flat Creek. Flat Creek, we called it.

DL: Right.

AL: Fairview, NC.

DL: Which is before you get to the end of Garren Creek, there's a road to the left.

TE: Okay.

DL: And she was raised up in that little cove, holler, as they would say, area. And everybody just about was related in that area, her fathers and brothers and uncles.

AL: We called it our holler.

DL: Yeah.

AL: That's right.

TE: That's correct. That's [crosstalk 00:05:10].

DL: So, that's where she grew up. And then they had a house there.

TE: Mm-hmm (affirmative). And when did you start living in Fairview? Was it when you got married that you moved to Fairview?

DL: She's always lived in Fairview.

TE: Oh. This is all considered Fairview. I'm still new in the area, so my error.

DL: Right. All of it's Fairview.

TE: So, all of it's Fairview. Okay. What about this house? When did you start living in this house?

AL: Gosh, I don't know. I didn't keep up with it. John did, but I didn't.

DL: 1970 --

TE: Okay.

DL: ... is when we moved to this house.

TE: Okay. It's been a sturdy house, hasn't it?

DL: It wasn't when he bought it.

TE: Oh. But it is the... Well, he certainly did some good work.

DL: My father's a master carpenter.

TE: Carpenter. Well, that's why, that is why. I was going to ask you about the house in terms of, if you knew who had built the house originally. Sounds like your dad and your

husband may have almost rebuilt in some ways, but do you know who built the house originally?

DL: The house that she grew up in, or the one mom and dad lived in?

TE: Either one. That one or this one or both.

DL: No, this house was formally the Morrow Place. Morrow is a very, or was a very well-known name in this area.

TE: Okay.

DL: The woman's name was Sadie. But I can give you a contact, Scott Jones, who's the chief of the Fairview Fire Department. It would've been his great-great-grandmother.

TE: Scott Jones?

DL: And Judy Jones is his mother.

TE: Okay.

DL: I can give you that information, if you want it.

TE: Okay. It might be someone we might want to interview, so yeah. When you talked about the house was not in --

AL: This is an old school house and then my husband remodeled it.

TE: I was just going to ask, what kind of work did he do to bring the house up to the standards? Uh-huh (affirmative). This house.

DL: Well, it has lath in the seat and the walls, and there were holes in the walls. We left a nice home that he had added to and renovated and done rock work, just like you see in this house. And they wanted to move across the mountain for whatever reason, which I can understand in the winters.

TE: Sure.

DL: But with that, floor joists, there was some holes in the floors. I mean, it was a house that nobody really would have wanted to, I would think at that time, to start with. But he knew he could do it. And he bought this and 28 acres, which included that mountain where Lee lives. Well --

AL: This used to be an old school house before we got it.

TE: How long --

AL: He remodeled it.

TE: How long do you think it took your dad to be satisfied with all the changes of the house?

DL: Many years. Because my dad worked and he was the carpenter, a master carpenter at the time when you didn't subcontract. So, you did everything on building a house. And he would come home after working hard all day. This house did not have a basement, it had a crawl space and he would dig out --

TE: Oh wow.

DL: ... by hand and a pick, shovels, and he would do 10 to 15 wheelbarrows a day. And he literally dug the basement of this house, which is a full basement now.

JR: My goodness.

DL: And he did the rock work. He built all of this. There was no rock work on it. He did the exterior with a stucco. The garage of course wasn't there. The barn was there, but dad had to do a few things to the barn.

AL: He built that barn over there.

TE: He sounds like a very strong, determined man, to go and leave the house each day and go to work and work outside the home, and then come home and do the things he did.

DL: He had a very strong work ethic.

TE: Yeah, it would seem that way.

DL: And a very strong --

JR: Body.

DL: Body, right, but care for family.

JR: Yeah. But he did a beautiful job. It's a lovely house.

TE: Oh, it is. Very.

JR: Yeah. Well done.

TE: When you all moved here, and living in the house while work was being done, I'm assuming, and you had the 20 some odd acres that you mentioned, did you have cows? Did you have chickens or anything of that nature?

AL: He had a gun. Oh, he loved to hunt.

TE: I'm sure he brought home some good food too then, didn't he?

AL: He'd bring me a squirrel to fix.

DL: They had a milk cow and they would have a steer. And at the other place, they actually had a pig every year. So, Thanksgiving, it had to be 50 degrees or below --

JR: Oh yeah.

TE: Oh yeah.

DL: ... before they would kill the pig.

TE: Yeah.

JR: Sure.

DL: So, our Thanksgiving was not turkey, but grinding sausage.

TE: I was raised on a farm, and about that same time every year, my grandfather went through the same process. So, I understand that. I understand it totally. And it was exciting time too though. It was a big day.

DL: Oh, it was a time.

JR: But that was all when she was growing up, that's the kind of life that they had when she was growing up.

DL: Well, that was when she and dad were married.

JR: Oh.

DL: Yep. She was asking about here.

JR: What about when she was growing up, when your mom was growing up, was that the kind of life they had then, too?

DL: They had a cow. When you were little, we talked about this just the other day, you had a milk cow.

AL: My mother had one and I'd have to go milk it that thing every morning and night.

DL: And you had chickens. You had chickens?

AL: Yes. We had chickens and had a pig.

DL: Okay.

JR: And did you raise your food?

AL: We just lived country like, about all we could do.

TE: Did you plant corn and beans and things like that? Did you work in the garden any?

AL: Yes.

TE: What did you do in the garden?

AL: I done all the garden except plowing it.

TE: Okay. It was good food though, I'm sure.

AL: Mm-hmm (affirmative). Yeah.

TE: Very good food. This is for both of you. When you moved here, you said seventies?

DL: 1970.

TE: What was Garren Creek Road like then?

DL: Still a two-lane. Not as many cars.

AL: It wasn't paved.

DL: (It was paved.)

TE: Okay.

AL: Just a plain, rocky road.

TE: Was there much traffic?

DL: There was traffic. You could say the answer would be no, compared to today. You know? But there was still traffic.

JR: Would her parents have accessed where they lived by Garren Creek? Is that how they would get there?

DL: Marlowe Road is off of Garren Creek.

JR: Off of Garren Creek, okay.

DL: Just like Lee's Road.

TE: Mm-hmm (affirmative). Okay.

JR: Right.

DL: And you just drive up that road. I mean, you can see it when you go toward --

JR: So, would that have been before Garren Creek was paved, would it have been dirt then?

DL: It would've been dirt. Marlowe Road was dirt, even when I was growing up.

JR: Yeah.

DL: I would say it was dirt then.

JR: Yeah, before it was paved.

DL: Right, right.

JR: Which makes it more remote, even.

DL: Yeah.

JR: It makes it more difficult to get around. And how did they get around? Did they have horses or did your grandfather have a car? No. Your dad, did your dad have a car? Did they travel by car?

DL: They did.

JR: Yeah.

TE: When you were a little girl, living with your mom and dad at home, what was your favorite thing to do? What kind of play did you like to do when you had time to play?

AL: Play.

TE: Uh-huh (affirmative).

JR: She did do that, didn't she?

AL: I didn't have time to play. I had to work.

TE: Okay. Let's say when the day might have ended and the work was done and it was dark outside, did you have a favorite place in the house that you liked to be?

AL: Oh yeah. We stayed in the house all the time. We went outside [inaudible 00:14:22].

TE: What was your favorite spot in the house that you grew up in when you were a little girl? Did you have a favorite kind of a secret spot?

AL: No, I was just [inaudible 00:14:33] with the other kids.

TE: Okay, well that makes sense.

DL: She was the oldest of 13.

TE: Okay.

DL: So, she never had a childhood.

TE: I get it.

JR: Oh, okay.

DL: She has always had to be a caregiver.

TE: Caregiver.

AL: I had to babysit from the time I could sit up until I got grown.

JR: Wow.

TE: God bless you.

DL: And help her mother when her mother went in labor.

TE: Yeah.

JR: Really? Wow.

AL: Mother had nine children.

TE: You were a good help to your mother though, I know.

AL: We had to work together. There was nothing else you can do.

TE: But you had an education by the time you were 15.

AL: Gosh. 15, I was barely get around. I'd have to help in the kitchen.

TE: Miss Laughter, do you have brothers and sisters that are living today?

AL: Yeah.

TE: Do they live in Fairview?

AL: Part of them, I think, do. No, they've moved.

TE: They've moved away? Okay. I was just wondering. This is for both of you. What do you think was the best part of living in Fairview? It could be when you were a girl, when you were a young girl, or when you were older, but do you have any good aspects of living in Fairview? Maybe I should say it that way.

AL: No, we had to work.

TE: Had to work too much.

AL: I'd go to the plant and work and come home and work until bedtime and then go to bed. Get up, start again.

TE: Okay. What about you, Darlene?

DL: Just thinking about that.

AL: She wasn't tied down like I was and had to babysit all the time.

DL: No. Of course when you're young, you don't appreciate it as much.

TE: Of course.

DL: But the quiet, the country life. And hands in the dirt, getting back to kind of the roots and the nature of things. Then I didn't like it. Didn't like the isolation. Because my dad drove, she did not drive.

TE: Okay.

DL: And so, we didn't go anywhere except to church. And every two weeks, the grocery store. And I'd go to school with the school bus.

JR: A school bus.

DL: Yeah.

TE: I was going to ask you about when you moved here in 1970, you would've been how old?

DL: 13.

TE: 13. So you had a bus that came by here.

DL: Right.

TE: And what was the school like in Fairview? What kind of day would you have at the school in Fairview?

DL: Well, it was through the eighth grade at that time.

TE: Okay.

DL: Very dry, cut and dry. You know, you had playtime, recess.

TE: What kind of games did you play, do you recall?

DL: We had dodge ball, of course. That was the big thing, I guess. If you played softball, it was more to it, and that was later on, external sports rather than having time and just get out and run around and play and swing and be with your friends and that kind of thing.

AL: Swing on a grape vine.

TE: That's fun, I've done that. So, when you went to high school, you would've gone to Reynolds.

DL: Which is now the middle school.

TE: Oh, okay. What was that like? In going from Fairview School that was relatively small, I would think, to a school from where children coming from other areas, what was that like? Was there --

DL: It was a big change. It was more than just people from Fairview, but it was a nice change to be able to --

JR: Oh yeah.

DL: ... meet other kids.

AL: And ride the bus. Yeah.

DL: Be friends.

JR: People you weren't related to.

TE: We have interviewed a lot of people who did the same thing you did, that had gone to Fairview Elementary and then went on to Reynolds. And it's kind of been mixed reviews, if you will, about their experiences. Some people felt like children and teens from Fairview were not as accepted. Did you see any of that?

DL: I think that's always been, and worse today, but I do think that they looked at people from Fairview as hicks, would be the word. You know, not being very well educated and

those kinds of things. And I think they did look down on people some, but I was not part of that elite group. I was always on the outside anyway, so.

TE: We have heard individuals who, I was just describing, had experienced that and said that they were referred to as people from Farview.

DL: Oh.

TE: And I don't know if you'd ever heard that or not, but that came up.

DL: Farview?

JR: Farview.

TE: Yes. That came up several times.

DL: That's interesting.

TE: During some of interviews.

JR: Interested to know about the church connection. Did you go to the same church that your mom and dad did, where your mom did when she was growing up?

DL: You went to Laurel Springs, didn't you? Which is a church, you go to the end of Garren Creek --

AL: It's a Baptist Church.

DL: ... take a right, and that's going to take you down toward number nine or Broad River Township, Morgan Hill. But Laurel Springs is on that road, down on the right.

JR: And it's still there?

DL: It's still there. Well, they built a new church many years ago.

JR: Did they? Oh.

DL: Many, many years ago. But it was a small little white church, country church that you would picture in your mind. But then you also went to Nesbitt Chapel too, which was a Methodist church, and still is a Methodist church.

AL: We went there before we went to… while they was building the school for us.

DL: You went to... Yes. When you went to school, you went to Nesbitt Chapel School. Right. Right.

JR: Was that a big part of life back then, when things were so isolated and limited? Were church activities a big part of life?

DL: I don't... Did you ever have any church activities? Did you ever get together, except for homecoming?

AL: Oh yes. We do that every year.

DL: Right. But when you were little. No, nobody had time.

TE: Yeah. Had to work.

DL: Well, I mean, large families were everywhere. And everybody had to do their part to survive.

AL: So, we'd just go from one homecoming to the next one comes up and [inaudible 00:22:25] and --

DL: Well, there were just those two, so.

TE: Yeah. Okay. We talked a little bit about changes in Fairview, and while it's still a two-lane road as it was, you said back in the day there was not as much traffic in comparison to today. In what other ways do you think the general Fairview area and neighborhoods have changed? Or do you think they've changed?

AL: Fairview Church?

TE: No. Do you think Fairview has changed very much over the years that you've lived here?

AL: No.

TE: You don't think it's changed any?

AL: Mm-mm (negative).

TE: Okay.

AL: The only way they'd change and drop out, we'd have to bury them.

DL: (whispers) This is all church.

TE: I understand. That's okay. That's okay. What about you, Darlene?

DL: It has changed a lot.

TE: How so?

DL: Oh, of course the population's grown. There's more accessibility for businesses. There's more businesses. Not that all of them are the best business for the area, but they're still --

TE: Businesses.

JR: We know what you mean.

DL: But they're still there, for people who may not be able to go very far to access whatever they need to access there.

TE: Yes. In talking about the population changing and with new people moving in, do you think that's changed the tone of neighborhoods? I mean, there was a time, I suspect, when you knew all of your neighbors here in Fairview. Is that the case now?

DL: It is not. And of course, this day and age, people don't want to know their neighbors. They don't really care about their neighbors, per se. Which is a sad commentary for the loss of community.

TE: Yes, it is.

DL: There is a loss of community.

TE: Okay.

DL: And it's everywhere. It's not just here, it is everywhere. But it has to do with the attitude of people.

JR: Well, and there are no family ties to hold people together.

TE: People moving.

JR: I'm not related to anybody in my neighborhood, so you don't have that commonality.

DL: They can, or they grow apart.

TE: Right.

JR: Yeah.

TE: Describe, if you would then, what the neighborhood, community feel of this general neighborhood, but Fairview in general, what you think that it was like that made it community oriented?

DL: Well, like you were saying, you do know your neighbor, and you knew you could just, I can name everybody in every house just about. This is family lives here, this family lives here.

JR: So, if you needed help, you could call on someone.

DL: Yeah, you could. I mean, if you needed help and call someone, you can just call, pick one and they'd be there.

TE: And they'd be there.

DL: People were dependable and...

JR: Well, you didn't have services like medical care and fire departments and --

DL: No, still don't have... Well, you do have some medical services now.

JR: Yeah.

TE: When you moved here in 1970 to this house, and living here, did you all feel safe in the neighborhood?

AL: We didn't have no trouble.

DL: We've been --

AL: That's all I can say.

DL: Right. There's never been any --

AL: Everybody just lives to their selves until they get ready to go visit and that's it.

DL: Yeah, no, it's very safe.

TE: How do you feel about that today?

DL: I think overall it's still a very safe community, compared to many neighborhoods. And we've been very fortunate for her safety.

JR: Yes.

TE: Absolutely. When you moved here in the seventies, or I guess maybe I should take it back even a little further before you moved to this house maybe, or including living here, were there any people in the neighborhood that were considered what we call today characters, people that did maybe some unusual things or said some unusual things?

AL: No, I don't reckon.

TE: And you don't have to name anyone in particular.

DL: Right. Sure, no. No, I was just trying to think about that question. Well, there's always somebody in the neighborhood that you might be a little skeptical of, but no, not really.

TE: Any storytellers?

AL: No, I don't reckon.

DL: No, I grew up in a very introverted family.

TE: Well, and that makes a difference too.

DL: Oh, you're not kidding. Having to learn to be an extrovert, it's a whole different world.

JR: No crowds on the front porch, singing and talking all night.

DL: No.

JR: No potluck dinners, that sort of thing?

TE: We've talked about the churches that you attended and having the annual meeting, homecoming meeting. Were weddings held in churches that you attended? Did people get married in churches that you went to?

AL: Most of them do, because they can't afford nothing.

TE: Yeah.

AL: See, the preacher would marry them because they didn't have very much money. They couldn't afford it.

TE: And were there any little celebrations after, let's say that a wedding took place in the church, did they have refreshments or meal or anything to celebrate?

AL: Well, homecoming we did.

DL: (whispers) No.

TE: Okay.

AL: Every year. Sometimes we'd have a birthday party, but hardly ever.

TE: Yeah. So, it was just occasional things as time came up and need presented itself, I guess, as well. When you moved here, did you feel like there were people in the community that were considered leaders in the community even though they didn't hold an elected office of any kind?

DL: No. Nobody stood out to that, no. But then you have to think about media is not the same then as it is today.

JR: People are more self-sufficient and just ran their own farm and took care of themselves.

DL: That's right. That's right. And if the neighbor needed them, they took care of them. There was not...

JR: But it wasn't organized.

DL: Right.

TE: What kind of stores were there in Fairview in 1970?

AL: Stores.

TE: Stores, you know, that you could go and buy things.

AL: Well, there's these little buildings and they'd just fill it up with stuff. That's where we'd go to, the little stores.

TE: Yeah. Could you buy any clothes in any of those stores?

AL: No. Just food mostly.

TE: Okay. You remember the names of any of those stores?

AL: Nesbitt.

TE: And did they sell food, groceries?

AL: Yeah.

TE: Things like that?

AL: Mr. Nesbitt did.

TE: Any others that you can remember, Darlene?

DL: Well, Nesbitt's store was, go past Marlowe Road before you get to the end of Garren Creek. The person that bought the property has done a lot and added some buildings. But there's a small little, it's not even hardly, maybe the size of the kitchen, dining room, and maybe the living room. But that would be really pushing the size of it.

TE: Okay.

DL: So, very basic kinds of staples, or things. Most of the staples, they would only buy staples if they needed them there. Or – like corn.

JR: Like sugar and flour and salt.

AL: Well, the Burns had their log saw and built their own barns.

DL: Right, right. But the other store was, I don't know the name of it now, at the end of Village Road, past the fire department on the left used to be Merrell's store.

TE: Right. Yeah.

DL: And then of course where that surplus food.

TE: Dickies?

DL: Dickies.

JR: Oh yes, there was a hardware store there.

DL: Ledbetters. Ledbetters own that. Tickles, David Tickle owned it. He was the son-in-law of Vinny Ledbetter. And then he took over. And they had groceries there, but we would always go over to Winn Dixie in town every two weeks, that's a big trip out.

JR: Yeah.

TE: That was my next question was, how often did you go into Asheville to do any shopping, and where did you go?

AL: Well, it's according to what we needed and how much stuff we needed. We'd go once a week, at least. Sometimes we didn't do that because we didn't have the money.

TE: Right. If you needed to buy clothes and you went into Asheville, where would you have gone? What store would you have gone to, maybe?

AL: Kresses. And I can't think of them other stores, but they had plenty of those little buildings, one room.

DL: Downtown.

AL: They had plenty of piece goods, you know, you can get, can make your dress or whatever you want to do.

TE: Did you make clothes for your children?

AL: I sewed them up some. It wasn't too fancy --

DL: She made mine.

AL: ... but I got it.

DL: My dresses. Yeah. I never had any new dress, but once or twice.

AL: I made most of my dresses. Didn't buy many unless somebody give me some. Hand me downs.

TE: Hey, we've all been through that.

DL: It was Kresses and Sears. I remember going to Sears.

JR: Oh yeah, Sears was big, wasn't it?

DL: It was, but we'd go downtown. Only got once a year.

TE: Okay.

DL: To TS Morrison.

JR: Oh yeah.

DL: And it's usually around Christmas time. But then for hardware or seeds, dad would go to what's now the Tack Creek, it's on Beverly Road that runs into New Haw Road.

JR: Oh, the East Asheville hardware.

DL: Yes.

JR: Yeah.

DL: Miller's, it was called Miller’s.

JR: Miller's, Yeah. Miller's across. And the feed store across the street.

DL: Right.

JR: Yeah.

TE: I noticed on the sheet here that you have a sibling. Is Aubrey a girl or boy?

DL: A boy.

TE: Boy. I thought so.

AL: I had a boy and a girl.

TE: Two children. Yeah. I'm sure you loved them and enjoyed raising them, too. When you and Aubrey were teenagers and wanting to go places, were you able to do any of that? To hang out, go somewhere and hang out with kids your age?

DL: Mm-mm (negative).

TE: Was your brother?

DL: Well, he's six years older.

TE: Okay.

DL: So basically we have separate lives.

TE: Okay.

DL: So, he had his car by the time he was 16 and off on his own and coming and going kind of thing.

JR: Boys had more freedom.

DL: They did. They did. They certainly did. Girl, I didn't, no.

TE: Okay. Just checking it out.

JR: But you were both able to roam the woods, weren't you? And to be free and...

DL: Oh, of course.

JR: And I mean, you roamed --

DL: Get out.

JR: And you roamed the place. I mean...

DL: Well for me, that was my play, because I played with a lot of dolls.

TE: Were there --

DL: I was more sheltered with that.

TE: During that time period that we're talking about when you were too young to go out and do some things that you wanted to do, were there other girls in this general neighborhood that --

DL: Just one.

TE: Just one? I hope you were friends.

DL: Yeah, we were.

TE: Okay.

DL: She was older, but I didn't get to play with her very much, so.

TE: Yeah, okay. Do either of you remember at any time living in Fairview when there were any really bad events? Like fires, floods, anything of that nature?

AL: I don't think so.

DL: Well, Hurricane Agnes.

JR: Yeah, that was a bad one.

DL: It was, it washed as you come down the curve, that creek just washed that road. And that was the worst storm. I mean, she's had a lot of rain here. Oh gosh. The rain that's happened here. But that was the worst that I remember. And then snow when I was growing up, was really bad. It'd start snowing in October and you'd have snow up until March.

TE: And how long did it take to get roads cleared? Or were they?

DL: They weren't.

TE: Okay.

DL: I often, I learned the word, I made this up, thirdary. Rather than a secondary road, we were like a thirdary because it never happened. And when I was in the first grade, January, we were supposed to go back to school from Christmas break, we had another snow. So, school got canceled, and it would just be melted enough that they were going to probably have school the next day and we'd have no snow. Well, everybody was out that whole month of January because of that.

JR: That must have been '75, '76.

DL: No, it was my first grade.

JR: Oh.

DL: '60. '62?

JR: Oh, okay.

DL: '63?

TE: Okay.

JR: Now we had that same thing in Haywood County, that winter of '75 to '76.

DL: Yeah. I remember that.

JR: Oh my gosh. That's a whole month kids couldn't go to school.

DL: But we didn't have that, because I didn't miss that much school. I graduated in '75 from Reynolds. But that... Yeah. And you could hear the trees breaking, we'd have ice storms.

JR: Right, the poplars. The poplars would explode.

DL: Right. And pines. You'd just stand out and just listen to them fall.

TE: Did you ever have anything to fall on the house? Any --

DL: No.

TE: That's good.

DL: No, my dad did not have trees around the house.

TE: He's smart.

DL: Around the house. Close, anyway.

TE: Yeah.

DL: But yeah, those winters were hard winters.

TE: What kind of heat did you have then?

DL: We had oil.

TE: Okay.

DL: But they used a wood stove and we had a fireplace. And of course, the power would go off a lot.

TE: I'm sure.

JR: Oh yeah.

DL: And I remember it seemed like the power was off one time, it was off like two and a half, three weeks at one time. But we had the wood. And if you're prepared for something, you don't struggle with it half as much as people who are not prepared.

JR: But what about your well? Without electricity, how would you get water?

DL: We would just have to --

JR: Oh, did you have a stream?

DL: Mm-hmm (affirmative).

JR: Yeah. You'd bring in water from the creek.

DL: Right, right. But it was...

JR: Yeah, it gets hairy, doesn't it?

DL: It was hairy.

JR: It's a lot of work.

TE: Do either of you have any questions or something that you wanted to share that we have not asked about?

AL: You can say what you want to.

DL: Well, mom married at 19. Dad was out of the military. He served in World War II.

TE: Okay.

DL: He was all over Germany and that area.

JR: Oh wow. A hero.

DL: And he was in Auschwitz.

TE: Oh, wow.

JR: He was a real hero.

DL: Yeah.

TE: Wow.

DL: But most of his job was on the battlefield with the cannons, so. But --

TE: He was a fortunate man to come home.

DL: Absolutely.

TE: To be able to come home.

DL: Absolutely.

JR: Yeah.

DL: But they made a great life together.

JR: Yeah.

TE: It sounds like, it really does. A very hardworking man. And I think a hardworking mom, a strong mom and a loving mom is what has come across to me today, Ms. Laughter, is who you are.

AL: That's what it takes to make a living.

TE: Well, yes it does.

AL: You do your job, and he does his. So, there you go.

DL: And they both came from a very poor family.

TE: And it seems they did very well for themselves.

DL: He was a saver, and she was too, growing up, not having anything, and often not having food to eat other than what you've got stored up. But they always managed.

JR: Well, and she was able to work at CP Clare, and that must have been a...

DL: And she didn't do that until after my brother was born, at some point. I don't know what year you started at CP Clare. She quit when I was 10.

JR: Did she? But that brought a little extra income in --

DL: It did.

JR: ... to the family. That was a good thing for a lot of people.

DL: It did. Right, right.

TE: If it's not painful, when did your father pass?

DL: Sorry, still is. 2005.

TE: 2005.

JR: Oh, fairly recent.

DL: Well, 15 years coming up.

TE: Well, that's recent now.

DL: But his father was not very [whispers - inaudible 00:42:10].

TE: Okay. Judith, did you have any questions that you wanted to ask that we didn't? Anything we didn't cover?

JR: I've been jumping in on topics as we went along.

TE: That's okay. We're a team. That's what we do. Well, thank you Miss Laughter, thank you Darlene, for sharing your time with us today and sharing personal memories that are going to be recorded for history. And you both are a very strong part of Fairview and we feel honored that you allowed us to come in your home today. Thank you very much.

JR: Thank you very much.

AL: A lot of people loves to read them old timey stories.

JR: Oh yes.

TE: Oh, I do. I'm one of them. Thank you again, both of you.

DL: Thank you.

END OF INTERVIEW.